frauds at application stage, misuse of lost/stolen cards and cards not received by genuine applicants, use of counterfeit and altered cards and merchants acting in collusion with the card holders, etc.

Fraud prevention committees/task forces have been set up to formulate rules to prevent frauds and take proactive fraud control and enforcement measures. Banks have been advised to actively participate in such fraud prevention committees/task forces.

Credit Information Bureaux have been set up to provide a mechanism for mitigating credit risk by enhancing the quality of credit decisions. The banks have been advised to become members of such Credit Information Bureaux in order to maintain the selectivity of customers in their credit card business.

Safe drinking water supply in karnataka

*397. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of inhabitants in the rural areas of Karnataka are affected by chemically contaminated water,

(b) whether any action has been taken to set up alternate schemes such as installation of defluoridation plants and supply of household DF filters etc; and

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken on the number of people affected by the defective water supply and also those affected by skeletal fluorosis and what remedial steps, if any, are contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Government of Karnataka, there are habitations with excess fluoride, salinity and iron contamination in the drinking water.

Action has been taken by the State Government with support from the Government of India to supply safe drinking water from alternate sources for the excess fluoride affected habitations by way of (i) taking up alternate water supply schemes under the Sub-Mission Programme (ii) installing de-fluoridation plants; and, (iii) Supplying household domestic defluoridation filters.

A survey conducted in July 2000 in Nidasoshi village and another survey conducted in Keerunayaka Thanda village of Gulbarga district in 2002 have indicated that 7 and 18 persons respectively were affected by skeletal fluorosis.

Calamity relief package for Orissa

*398. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has doled Rs. 2,250 crore calamity relief package for 16 States affected by floods and drought as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the share of Orissa and the details of the development works that would be carried out with this aid;

(c) whether further such relief is also in the offing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Due to failure of the South-West monsoon 2002, 17 States experienced drought of varying magnitude. The State Governments submitted memoranda to the Government of India, seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).This was examined by Central Teams and thereafter by the Inter-Ministerial Group. The recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMP) were accepted by the High Level Committee, and after taking into account the funds available under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) with the State Governments, to which Central Government contributes 75%, an amount of Rs. 2101.90 crore was released to the States from NCCF for drought relief. The requirement for drought have been assessed for the period upto 30th June, 2003 by which time to South-West monsoon 2003 is expected to set in.

Six States experienced floods during the year 2002. The memoranda received from these States were considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group and the HLC and an amount of Rs. 301.82 crore was approved as recommended by IMG. However, taking into account the balances under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) with the State Governments, an amount of Rs. 19.85 crore was released from NCCF for flood relief. No further assistance from NCCF is envisaged for relief insofar as the floods of the year 2002 are concerned.